REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15 and 17 are pending. Claims 3, 7, 12 and 16 have been cancelled.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14 and 15.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 3, 4, 7-9, 12, 13, 16 and 17 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,642,239 to Nagai. Claims 3, 7, 12 and 16 have been cancelled and, therefore, Applicants submit the rejection of claims 3, 7, 12 and 16 is rendered moot.

The Examiner contends that Nagai discloses a method and apparatus for detecting a scene change in a compressed moving picture comprising a scene change judging portion for judging a scene change, and a scene change interval retrieving for retrieving scene changes that exist at a start and end point of a specified interval among scene changes detected by the scene change judging portion. The Examiner contends that Nagai further discloses inputting a compressed moving picture in which field structures images and frame structure

images exist together, and using a threshold criterion on the basis of a maximum quantity variation in order to determine a scene change.

The present application discloses a scene change interval retrieving portion 10 that examines an interval between scene changes, if the interval coincides with an interval given from the scene change judgment data input portion 5 the interval retrieving portion 10 outputs positional information about the head and end of the scene change. Thus, a 30-second scene change can be detected from within a 5-minute picture. (Specification, generally, at page 21, line 19 through page 22, line 16.) The present application makes it possible to extract commercial breaks from television broadcasts, or to extract new or other programming which has fixed broadcast times.

Applicants submit that Nagai discloses a still picture detection circuit 15 which signals a frame synchronizer 12 to output a single field for two field intervals so that the field repetition rate of an image data sequence D2 corresponds to the output field repetition rate. (Nagai, column 5, lines 52-67, and Figure 5.) Nagai discloses that "although the sequence of fields D1 includes only seven fields F1 through F7, the image data D2 includes eight fields during the same interval by duplicating the field F7, so that the field repetition rate of the image data sequence D2 corresponds to the output field repetition rate." (Nagai, column 5, lines 62-67.)

Claims 4, 13 and 17 recite the feature of "retrieving scene changes that exist at a start point and an end point of a specified particular interval." In contrast, Nagai discloses a

method that inserts a duplicative field into a stream of fields so that a image data sequence corresponds to an output filed repetition rate.

Claim 8 depends from claim 4, and Applicants submit that claim 8 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 4.

Claim 9 recites "inputting a compressed moving-picture in which field structure images and frame structure images exist together." Nagai discloses that the image data can be a sequence of "fields or frames." Applicants submit that Nagai is unclear in whether "fields or frames" are alternative terms for the units that make up the image data, or if "fields or frames" refer to an interlaced video structure that can switch between frame structures and field structures on a picture-by-picture basis.

The MPEG2 standard discloses an encoding algorithm where a field structure is where one field, of either an odd field or an even field, is subject to encoding; while a frame structure is where two interlaced fields, one odd field and one even field, are subject to encoding. (Specification at page 2, lines 17-25.) Applicants submit that Nagai fails to disclose what concrete processes should be performed when both field structures and frame structures exist in the image data. Applicants submit that Nagai is not enabling for an image data having both field and frame structures, where field and frame structures are given their standard MPEG2 meaning. Therefore, Applicants submit that Nagai's disclosure of "fields or frames" refers to alternate terms for the units that make up the image data. Thus, Nagai does not disclose each and every element of claim 9 and , therefore, does not anticipate claim 9.
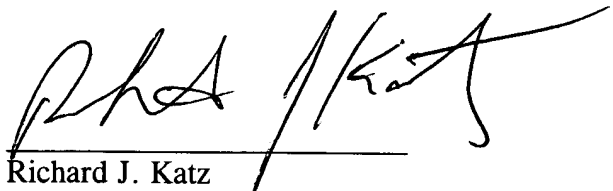
Withdrawal and reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated March 1, 2004 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15 and 17 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 1, 2004

Richard J. Katz
Reg. No. 47,698
Attorney for Applicants

DARBY & DARBY,. P.C.
Post Office Box 5257
New York, N.Y. 10150-5257
Phone: (212) 527-7700